

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were examined in the most recent, non-final office action dated December 20, 2006. Claims 7-12 stand withdrawn as directed to a non-elected embodiment. Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 3-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected as anticipated by Nelson, U.S. Patent No. 2,036,535. The abstract stands objected to for failing to be in a single paragraph. Claims 1 and 2 stand objected to for various informalities. Finally, the Office action notes that the section headings should be revised because they are in brackets, which may be mistaken for items that are to be deleted.

By way of this response, the abstract has been amended to be in a single paragraph. Further, the section headings in the specification have been amended to remove the brackets. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands objected to for reciting “comprising;”. The Office action suggests that claim 1 be amended to recite --comprising;--. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the examiner. Claim 2 stands objected to for reciting “the connecting wire or the connecting wire”. The Office action suggests amending claim 2 to recite --the connecting wire or the connecting pipe--. Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the office action.

Claim 1 is now allowable. The office action indicates that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form reciting all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1, as amended, recites all limitations of previously examined claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable format. Dependent claims 2, 5, and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons. All withdrawn claims have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

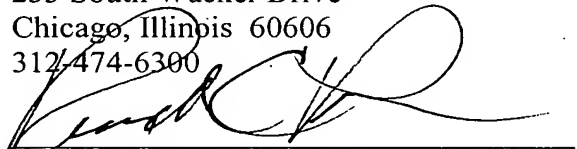
It is submitted that the claims as now appearing in this application are in form for allowance. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. No fee is believed due with this response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No.

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Respectfully submitted,

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